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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 May 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Maat Written Statement on Right to health in the context of SDGs 2030

Written Statement Provided for: **Sustainable Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.**

Preamble

Sustainable Development is a set of 17 goals and 169 targets developed by the United Nations related to the future of global development in accordance with the General Assembly Resolution of 25 September 2015. These goals entered into force in January 2016. The overall goals of sustainable development are the eradication poverty and hunger, Good health and quality education as well as gender equality. Through the goals of sustainable development, the United Nations and its states parties are seeking to take the necessary action to promote prosperity and to protect the planet. The right to health as one of the goals of sustainable development is to ensure the healthy life and well-being of all without discrimination, for all individuals within a state or among nations 1.

The general framework of the right to health as a goal of sustainable development

The right to health is one of the most important human rights that every individual must enjoy without discrimination on any basis and linked to the right to health with a number of other rights, such as the right to adequate housing, access to safe drinking water, the right to food, the right to education, life, non-discrimination and the prohibition of torture. Many regional and international conventions and treaties and national constitutions have recognized the right to health as a fundamental human right; such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).

Through the follow-up to the right to health as one of the basic human rights associated with the sustainable Development Goals 2030, the reports of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and those of the Special Rapporteur on the right to physical and mental health pointed out that there was a fundamental difference between human rights and sustainable development goals 2030 while the sustainable development goals are political commitments, the right to health leads to the arrangement of legal obligations for States to realize the right to health, and this difference has set a number of challenges to the right to health.

It can be said that the goals and objectives of sustainable development are integral and indivisible, and the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the three must be balanced and pursued to achieve gender equality.

However, a challenge to the right to health as one of the goals of sustainable development is that enjoyment of the right to the highest attainable standard of physical health and mentality for the peoples of most of the world and some groups such as women, children and girls is an elusive goal with the proliferation of armed conflicts and wars Capacity in many countries. Discrimination, stigmatization and widespread prejudices, particularly against persons with a mental illness or with mental disabilities, have been reported by some institutions of some states, making it difficult for them to receive appropriate treatment.

In addition, poor funding and investment in the health sector adversely affects the quality of the health services provided and leads to a disproportionate population of access to services health and other related services related to the right to health, such as access to clean drinking water, adequate housing and others. Widespread poverty and marginalization greatly hamper the participation of broad populations in decisions regarding their health and development, leading to increased discrimination.

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1 Sustainable Development Goals: 17 Targets to transform our world, United Nations.
https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/ar/wp -content/uploads/sites/2/2015/12/SDG.Overview.pdf

Developments related to the right to health in the Arab region

There is a disparity in health conditions in the Arab region, according to the rates of wealth and poverty of states, and in general health policies in the region cannot be qualified that it is optimal, and it seems remarkable that what is being spent by some Arab countries on fuelling war and supporting extremist groups and armed militias in the countries other in the region could promote health rights in Arab countries if redirected to assistance and technical support in the health sector, rather than supporting subversive groups under false political claims.

However, there are attempts by a number of countries to bring about a structural change in the health sectors through the amendment of laws and legislation. Efforts in Egypt may be an example. The health sector in Egypt has witnessed many developments. The Egyptian government has listed health as one of the most important axes of its vision for Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

In order to achieve the goal of health as one of the most important axes of its vision for sustainable development 2030, the Egyptian government issued the Comprehensive Health Insurance Law No. 2 of 2018, which includes many advantages that constitute an important development in the field of health, including: Health insurance is mandatory and avoids the flaws of existing laws and the current insurance system. The law will apply to all citizens of all age groups throughout the Republic. In accordance with the law, the Authority is also entitled to provide its medical services to foreigners residing in Egypt. In addition, the State is obliged to progressively upgrade the quality and efficiency of its health facilities before its introduction to the system and its continuation in the governorates to be started and the need for such facilities to obtain accreditation. The Comprehensive Health Insurance Act has the advantage of covering all diseases. The therapeutic service is provided immediately where it is sufficient for the citizen to just acquire the national number in order to be served. High quality health services are also provided. It is a social system of solidarity and includes informal groups while ensuring that special health care is provided to those who are unable to do so and the state incurs the burdens of those who can't afford. Coverage of all citizens under the Inclusive health insurance is ensured through the extension of the health-care to all levels of population. In addition to abolishing the idea of treatment at state expense and transferring its funds to health insurance, the citizen will be entitled under the new law to receive medical service immediately without waiting for a turn.

However, we believe that this system is necessary to speed up its implementation, as it is planned to be applied throughout the Egyptian Republic within 15 years, which is a relatively long period. It is important that the international community support Egypt in providing the necessary resources to accelerate the implementation of the new system during the time range is not more than 5-7 years.

A good example is the promotion of the right to health is in the United Arab Emirates, where we have witnessed good developments in the on 2017; the opening of new hospitals, clinics, specialized centres and expansion of medical services provided, especially mental health services. The use of a medical robot in complex surgeries and binoculars or smart pharmacies and applying smart patient rooms. The Launch of the project "Genome" to diagnose the child immediately after birth to detect any genetic diseases in early stage and the implementation of the first Proton cancer treatment centre in the Middle East and Gulf region. This technique will give patients new hope in recovery, especially as it has proved a great success in the treatment of tumours.

Recommendations

- Promote international solidarity and call for rich states to provide the necessary support and funding to promote the right to health in low-income states.
- Reliable partnerships must be operationalized between policymakers responsible for the health sector and civil society actors, including non-governmental, academic and professional circles, which are one of the cornerstones of effective health systems and thus serve as a guarantee of the full realization of right to health and related rights as one of the main objectives of sustainable development.
- The need for an effective system of international accountability on the implementation of states obligations to implement the right to health of SDGs 2030.
- The Special Rapporteur on health should periodically follow up the states' implementation of Sustainable Goal 3 and the actual achievement of the right-to-health goals and identify best practices to overcome the obstacles and challenges faced.
- Sustainable financing of investment in health infrastructure, particularly in the area of research and development of new medicines and tools and assistance to UN member states, particularly developing

countries, in their endeavors to ensure that their people have access to quality health services and medicines through existing international legal mechanisms.

- Ensuring sustainable financing of health security application in the political agenda at the national and international levels.
- Encourage states to enact laws, promote policies and practices that eliminate all forms of discrimination in medical services.
- Integrate the community participation of the population, non-governmental organizations into the indicators through which progress in achieving and implementing goal 3 can be measured.